

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, September 21, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. Thursday, Sept. 21st. 1893. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I cannot let your birthday go quite by without a few words of greeting and loving wishes for your health and happiness. I hope you are really well and will continue so.

When I came into Daisy's room early this morning I thought she was sound asleep, but in a moment a dark curly head was raised from the pillow and a very sleepy face turned to me and black eyes opened only long enough to say "This is Grandmamma's birthday, Mamma you won't forget to telegraph her will you?" On my assurance that I wouldn't Daisy's head popped down again and to all appearance she was off on another long nap. I didn't mean to break my promise or forget, but we are starting off on the houseboat tomorrow and do not return until the day the children leave, so that what with trying to remember the hundred and one things we need to carry with us tomorrow and looking over the childrens' wardrobe and putting it in order, my mind was fully occupied. So Daisy had to remind me once and again. Alec wanted me to send you a piece of my girls work in time for the birthday, but I did not have any I liked except one piece which I did not believe could be smuggled through in the post, and by express it would make you trouble. So I will send it by the children. They leave here a week from today and my heart fails me whenever I think of it. It will be very lonely without my darlings.

I wrote to you from Montreal, but I fear you never got the letter. I told you about our trip down the St. Lawrence. It is of no consequence, except that I did not want you to think I had not written all summer.

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Alec's lecture last night was very nice, his audience I should think numbered about four hundred. He has gone to bed tired out, but is very well only ready for our spree tomorrow.

Mr. Hitz says you are back in Washington for the winter. I wonder how you could make up your mind to leave the country at this time. It is perfectly lovely here now and I hate having the children leave it all.

Our new house progresses but slowly. It is a very great disappointment that we shall have to go into it without the children. I did want them to consecrate as it were, the new home with their presence.

I noted your promise of keeping up your strength for a long visit here next summer. We shall have plenty of room, and will give you such a warm welcome as will make up for any lack of Colonial Beach sunshine outside.

With much love to Mr. Bell and yourself, and to my cousins.

Affectionately your daughter, Mabel. Thursday, Sept. 31st 1893.